

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /110 W

-----042110Z 053934 /73

R 041611Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6286

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

EUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 2293

CINCUSNAVEUR AND EUCOM FOR POLADS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS ENRG TS LY IT

SUBJECT: LIBYAN-TUNISIAN DISPUTE: TALK WITH

FOREIGN MINISTER

1. SUMMARY: FONMIN CHATTY WAS HAPPY TO RECEIVE U.S. VIEWPOINT ON OFFSHORE DISPUTE WITH LIBYA. HE REPORTED ON RECENT SUPPORT TUNISIA HAS BEEN PROMISED BY OTHER ARAB STATES AND TOLD ME HE WOULD BE VISITING OTHER ARAB CAPITALS IN NEXT TWO WEEKS TO DRAMATIZE GOT'S CASE. HE IS VERY UNHAPPY WITH UNSATISFACTORY ITALIAN ATTITUDE. THROUGHOUT. END SUMMARY.

2. HABIB CHATTY, TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, RECEIVED ME AT 10M THIS MORNING FOR TALK LASTING ONE HOUR CONCERNING  
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FORTHCOMING VISIT OF UNDER SECRETARY HABIB (REPORTED SEPTEL NOTAL) AND LIBYAN-TUNISIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE. HE WAS PLEASED TO RECEIVE THE INFORMATION WHICH I CONVEYED TO HIM ALMOST VERBATIM FROM REFTEL. WHEN I HAD FINISHED HE ASKED IF I WOULD COVER DEPARTMENT'S MAIN POINTS IN AN AIDE-MEMOIRE. I AGREED TO DO SO.

3. CHATTY THEN TOLD ME THAT OUR REASONING ON SECURITY COUNCIL APPROACH HAD PARALLELED HIS OWN. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, SEE MAURITIUS AS A PROBLEM FOR TUNISIA IN SC AND HE BELIEVED USSR WOULD DO ITS BEST TO REMAIN NEUTRAL. LIKE US, HE SAID, GOT SEES WISDOM OF MAKING ITS CASE FIRST TO FELLOW-ARABS. DURING HIS RECENT TRIP HE HAD FOUND EGYPTIANS AND SAUDIS "100 PERCENT SYMPATHETIC". PRINCE FAHD PROMISED TO "SPEAK TO QADHAFI". DURING NEXT TWO WEEKS CHATTY WILL VISIT KUWAIT AND OTHER GULF STATES, DAMASCUS, ALGIERS AND RABAT TO EXPLAIN TUNISIA'S CASE.

4. CHATTY SAID HE HAD SEEN ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FOR BRIEF MEETING DURING PLANE CHANGE AT ROME. FONMIN INSISTED THAT HIS MINISTRY HAD BEEN UNAWARE IN ADVANCE OF ENI/SAIPEM DRILLING PLANS, PLEASED FOR TIME TO WORK OUT GENERALLY TOLERABLE SOLUTION BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT TENS OF BILLIONS OF LIRE IN ITALINA INVESTMENTS IN LIBYA WERE IN JEOPARDY IF TUNISIA PUSHED TOO HARD FOR SETTLEMENT AT THIS TIME. QADHAFI WOULD SEIZE THEM. CHATTY REVIEWED AT SOME LENGTH GOI CONVERSATIONS THROUGHOUT THIS EPISODE, E.G. EARLY REFERENCES TO SCARABEO IV AS "DRILLING PLATFORM" ARE NOW REPLACED BY REFERENCES TO IT AS "SHIP FLYING THE ITALIAN FLAG". GOT, OF COURSE, APPRECIATES BIND GOI FINDS ITSELF IN BUT MUST KEEP UP ITS PRESSURE ON GOI.

5. AFTER HIS CURRENT ROUND OF VISITS TO ARAB CAPITALS IS COMPLETED, MINISTER SAID, HE WOULD WANT TO SEE ME AGAIN. HE ASKED ME TO MAINTAIN CONTACT DURING HIS ABSENCE WITH ACTING FONMIN TURKI IF I HAVE QUESTIONS  
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TO PUT OR INFORMATION TO CONVEY.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PLOS, ENRG, TS, LY, IT, (CHATTI, HABIB)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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